

MIYATA et al
Appl. No. 10/549,360
April 22, 2009

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is one new sheet of drawings containing Figure 3A.

Attachment: New Sheet (1)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 and 6-14 are pending. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 are amended, and new Figure 3A is provided herewith.

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the Information Disclosure Statements filed September 14, 2005 and December 1, 2005 fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2). In reviewing the Information Disclosure Statements, it appears that the Examiner has already considered all references except for JP 2003-535740 A (2003/137091 is a U.S. Published Application and was considered by the Examiner). Attached hereto is a copy of JP 2003-535740 (Abstract only) for the Examiner's consideration.

Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to return an initialed copy of the attached Information Disclosure Citation to indicate his consideration of these two references.

In paragraph 2, the drawings were objected to based on 37 CFR 1.83(a). With respect to the claimed cylindrical portion of the upper case extending from a radially inner peripheral edge, the Examiner's attention is directed to Figure 3, element 14, which is described on page 9, last paragraph of the original specification as a cylindrical portion 14. In addition, Applicants note that claim 2 specifies a cylindrical portion extended integrally downward from a radially inner peripheral edge or outer peripheral edge of the upper annular portion. This arrangement is shown in the drawings, since Figure 3 shows that the cylindrical portion extends integrally downward from one of the two alternatives, i.e., the outer peripheral edge of the upper annular portion.

In relation to the objection of claim 4, new Figure 3A is provided herewith which shows an outer peripheral side cylindrical suspended portion as claimed. Page 14 of the original

specification describes this embodiment, which description has been amended herewith to reflect the addition of new Figure 3A. In addition, the Brief Description of the Drawings at page 8 of the original specification is amended to include a brief description of Figure 3A.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the drawing objections are respectfully requested.

In regard to the claim objections, claim 2 has been amended for clarity only to specify that the cylindrical side surfaces opposed to the cylindrical side surface of said cylindrical portion of the upper casing, consistent with the Examiner's suggestion.

Claim 5 is canceled herewith, and in any event, the numeral "4" was struck through in the Preliminary Amendment filed with the application.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objections are respectfully requested.

In regard to the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, it is believed that the above explanation regarding the outer peripheral-side cylindrical suspended portion obviates same, especially in view of the description on original page 14, last paragraph, which describes this alternative.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Ueno (U.S. Patent No. 5,476,326). This rejection is respectfully traversed at least because claim 1 now includes subject matter from dependent claim 5, which was not rejected based on Ueno.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP200-257146 (which the Examiner takes as the U.S. equivalent of U.S. Patent No. 6,918,701 to Ueno). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a strut slide bearing comprising an upper casing made of a synthetic resin and having an annular lower surface, a lower casing which is made of a synthetic resin, is superposed on said upper casing so as to be rotatable about an axis of said upper casing, and has an annular upper surface opposed to the annular lower surface of said upper casing, and an annular thrust sliding bearing piece which is made of a synthetic resin, and is interposed between the annular lower surface and the annular upper surface, wherein said lower casing has on a lower surface thereof a spring seat surface for a suspension coil spring, said lower casing includes an annular base portion, an upper cylindrical portion which is integrally formed on a radially substantially central portion of an upper surface of the annular base portion and on which the annular upper surface is formed, and a lower cylindrical portion which is integrally formed on a radially substantially central portion of a lower surface of the annular base portion, said lower surface of the annular base portion on a radially outer side of the lower cylindrical portion serving as the spring seat surface, the annular base portion, the upper cylindrical portion, and the lower cylindrical portion including a plurality of thinning cavities.

The structure of claim 1 enables a light weight, low cost assembly. Moreover it is possible to omit an upper spring seat member made of sheet metal, thus making it possible to eliminate a weight increase ascribable to the upper spring seat member made of sheet metal and a cost increase ascribable to such as the fabrication, coating and assembly of the upper spring seat member made of sheet metal. In addition, it is possible to attain a light weight and low cost undercarriage of the motor vehicle, as a result of the fact that the one end portion of the suspension coil spring can be held by the lower cylindrical portion with respect to the radial direction. Thus, it is possible to prevent the dislocation of the one end portion of the suspension coil spring from the spring seat surface. By sharp contrast, JP '146 does not teach or disclose

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this structure. For example, JP '146 does not disclose the claimed strut sliding bearing defined above, including the upper cylindrical portion on which the annular upper surface is formed, in conjunction with the annular base portion, the upper cylindrical portion and the lower cylindrical portion including a plurality of thinning cavities, as set forth in independent claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140 under Order No. PTB-1207-120.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____ /Paul T. Bowen/
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PTB:jck

Attachments:

New Sheet-Figure 3A
Form PTO-1449 and JP Abstract

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